

UFO LEXICON edited by Hilary Evans and John Spencer . Dictionary of terms used by ufology in eleven European languages.

Orders and requests for the full list of publications to:

Arnold West, BUFORA Pubs, 16 Southway, Burgess Hill, Sussex, RH16 9ST.

Library Services A member maintains the postal lending library, plus a tape-recorded lecture service, both being run at cost.

UFOCALL: 0898 112 118 86 is a regularly updated national UFO news and information service operating seven days a week through British Telecom. N.B. special charges apply.

Research and Investigation There is a national investigation network of experienced investigators, co-ordinated by a Director of Investigations. BUFORA co-operates with autonomous local societies in support of its third aim as circumstances allow. People are asked to pass on recent UFO reports, however received, to the Registered Office or to the Director of Investigations.

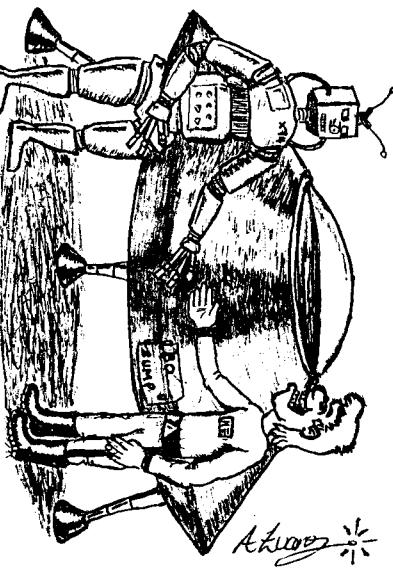
Miss Jenny Randles
37 Heathbank Road, Cheadle Heath
Stockport, Cheshire, SK3 0UP

Up to 10% of subscription income is invested in a press cutting service which provides the majority of current reports. These average about one a day, but no year is the same. Investigators use carefully compiled Sighting Report Forms, supported by an *Investigation Manual*, and normally carry an Identity Card. Approved investigators are eligible for reduced membership fees, and are expected to abide by a *Code of Practice* designed to maintain ethical standards.

A National Investigation Committee meets regularly to discuss case research etc. Discussion and training meetings are held periodically. People with the qualities of tact, perseverance and a good deal of initiative and common sense are invited to apply to become investigators. An amateur's knowledge of astronomy and meteorology is useful although the Association can call upon scientific consultants. In cases involving physical data or marks on the ground, photographs, and radar-visual reports, BUFORA has its own specialists.

Interesting reports, together with maps and supporting documents, are published (anonymity of witnesses is respected) or summarised. They may be used for statistical analysis and other studies, and permanently reside in the Association's archives, which contain over 12,000 cases. The Director of Research is responsible for co-ordinating or initiating research projects and related international liaison.

I'M A NUTS AND BOLTS MAN MYSELF!
but the area of study needs to be clearly defined.



Status and Administration BUFORA is run by a Council of 12 members who are elected to serve as Directors of BUFORA Ltd in accordance with the Articles of Association. Normally each is responsible for a specific area of administration. The Memorandum of Association under the Companies Act precludes Directors from accepting any renumeration other than normal expenses. BUFORA is a non-profit company limited by guarantee, having no share capital. Each member's liability is limited to £1 in the event of BUFORA being wound up. Membership is open to any person with a genuine and non-cultist interest in UFOs and who generally supports the stated aims. Details of membership fees, including life membership, are contained on an accompanying form.

Annual membership fee from 19.89. £18.00

BUFORA IS REGISTERED UNDER THE DATA PROTECTION ACT

Summary of Membership Benefits Members receive the Association's journal, membership card and supplementary notices including the annual reports. They may attend meetings and conferences at a reduced fee. They may make use of the library which holds books, magazines, cuttings and lecture tapes etc. Members may submit articles or letters for publication, assist with administration, research projects or investigations etc (please see application form). They can sometimes be put in touch with others in their area and people in all parts of the world are invited to join.

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Vice-Chairman and Secretary to the Council:
John Spencer, ACA.

Arms: The British UFO Research Association is dedicated to the scientific investigation of UFO phenomena, and stresses the importance of an objective approach. Its formal aims clearly show that it has two interlinked roles: firstly research and investigation, and secondly, activities of an educational nature.

1. To encourage, promote and conduct unbiased scientific research of unidentified flying objects (UFO) phenomena throughout the United Kingdom.
2. To collect and disseminate evidence and data relating to unidentified flying objects (UFOs).
3. To co-ordinate UFO research throughout the United Kingdom and to co-operate with others engaged in such research throughout the world.

—BUFORA—

The
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L. Beer - Sept. 89

HISTORICAL NOTES

Several authors contend that there are sufficient historical legends and anecdotes to show that UFOs or flying saucers have been around for thousands of years. These are, though, a matter of personal or scientific interpretation. Ancient Hindu sanscrit epics such as the *Mahabharata* speak of flying chariots or vimanas. Historical phenomena could only be described in terms of objects familiar to the observer. There are shining shields (BC. 216 at Arpi, Italy), a bow-shaped object (BC. 173 over the forum of Rome in a clear sky) and coloured globes (AD. 1561. 4 April, ref. *Nuremberg Broadsheet*) etc. There has been some debate as to whether or not the aerial objects over the USA in 1896-97 were in fact proto-type airships. In the 1920s author Charles Fort catalogued many strange events including FAOs, floating aerial objects. During the 2nd World War, pilots reported foo-fighters. In 1946, ghost rockets caused alarm in Scandinavia and other European countries, and remain unexplained.

Early fantasy fiction (e.g. by Jules Verne, H.G. Wells, Edgar Rice Burroughs, Capt. W.E. Johns, etc.), pulp SF magazines of the '30s and '40s, popular paperbacks, radio plays (eg. Orson Welles's production of *War of the Worlds* by H.G. Wells, broadcast on 30 October 1938) and space films may have contributed to the acceptance of Flying Saucers in June 1947.

MODERN TIMES The term *flying saucer* was universally adopted by the world's press following Kenneth Arnold's daylight sighting of some nine gleaming discs over Mount Rainier in the North West of the USA on 24 June 1947. The United States Air Force became entangled early on, and popularised the term *UFO*. It set up a series of projects such as *Sien*, *Grudge*, and later, *Blue Book* to examine the evidence and explain it away. On 17 December 1969, the Office of Assistant Secretary of Defense (sic) in Washington issued a release terminating *Project Blue Book*. The decision resulted from a report, funded by the Air Force, which had been prepared by the University of Colorado. Entitled *A Scientific Study of Unidentified Flying Objects*, it appeared as a thousand page Bantam paperback in early 1969. A review by the National Academy of Sciences, also funded by the Air Force, endorsed the Colorado conclusions. Several scientists on the University team were concerned about the objectivity of their work and a dissenting report, *UFOs? Yes!* by Dr David Saunders (Signet), subsequently appeared.

Under the Freedom of Information Act, a civilian group procured the release of over 2,000 pages of documents, showing also FBI and CIA involvement between 1947-64 and possible attempts at dis-information. The 1950s saw a more naive approach to the subject, together with a rash of entity reports. Some contactees offered messages with a nuclear disarmament theme. Records show that every continent has had its share of sightings, including the arctic and antarctic. Most governments, including the USSR, have had difficulty in coming to terms with these reports. In the late 1970s, 'Sir' Eric Gairy introduced the subject at the United Nations, and it was eventually referred to the Committee for the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. In the UK, the Air Ministry and later the Ministry of Defence have been involved, as is shown by exchanges and statistics published in *Hansard*, the official report of the proceedings of Parliament. In fact The Earl of Clancarty initiated an historic three-hour debate on UFOs in the House of Lords on 18 January 1979. Their Lordships were startled to see the public galleries unaccustomedly packed.



AN EARLY FLYING SAUCER! The flying island of Laputa seen by Dr Gulliver as it prepares to land. From Gulliver's Travels by Irish writer and churchman Jonathan Swift, published in 1726.

Recently there has been much interest in abductees - UFO witnesses claiming to have been taken into a UFO. Sometimes, during the controversial use of hypnotic regression, subjects relate having had alarming medical examinations.

Less controversial, but so far without explanation, are the circles appearing in cereal crops, costing farmers in the south of England thousands of pounds a year. BUFORA co-funded a survey of farmers to obtain more data. One view is that the majority of circles are caused by an unknown natural phenomenon.



Several thousand books have been written over the years and even the Library of Congress has published an extensive bibliography on UFOs.

BUFORA'S BEGINNINGS

On 22 September 1962, *BUFORO*, the London *UFO Research Organisation* (F. 1959) got together with seven other UK groups including a Scottish society, in London, to found the *British UFO Association*. Its oldest member-society, the *British Flying Saucer Bureau of Bristol*, was founded in 1953. The Association was consolidated as *BUFORA* when it merged with *BUFORO* on 25 January 1964. In the early 1970s it had as many as 18 member-societies and individual membership figures have approached the one thousand mark. In 1975 *BUFORA* became legally constituted as a non-profit company limited by guarantee with a view to gaining charitable status.

BUFORA ACTIVITIES

Conferences and Meetings Over the years *BUFORA* has sponsored many highly successful national conferences in various parts of the UK. The first and second UK International UFO Congresses were held at the Mount Royal Hotel, Marble Arch, London in 1979 and 1981. Eminent researchers presented papers and attendances reached 400 people, from 21 countries. At the 1979 Congress, an informal scientific advisory group, *The Provisional International Committee for UFO Research (PICUR)*, was established with members from most Western European countries and North America, to agree standards and facilitate computerised data exchange. *PICUR* became *The International Committee for UFO Research (ICUR)* at the third congress in High Wycombe in 1983. The fifth Congress was run by *ICUR* in close liaison with *BUFORA* and the *Mutual UFO Network* in London in July 1989. The next one is scheduled for 1991.

From 1962 monthly lecture meetings were held at the Kensington Central Library. Programme cards are issued listing distinguished speakers, and members are admitted at a reduced rate. These meetings also provide a useful opportunity to meet socially. Currently London meetings are held at a business school near Baker Street, NW1. *BUFORA* is also co-hosting meetings with local groups outside London. Requests for outside speakers are met on an ad hoc basis.

New Publications In 1989 *BUFORA* launched a new glossy A4-size magazine *UFO TIMES* with a bi-monthly schedule, intended to have a wider appeal than a purely membership journal.

UFOS 1947-1987 edited by Hilary Evans and John Spencer (Fortean Times). Authoritative articles by leading international researchers. Large, attractive, extensively illustrated paperback. 384 pages. Price: £12.50.

PHENOMENON - From Flying Saucers to UFOS edited by John Spencer and Hilary Evans (Macdonald/Futura/Avon [USA]). 8 plates. Papers by a galaxy of UFO researchers. Excellent paperback. Price: £3.95.

CONTROVERSY OF THE CIRCLES edited by Paul Fuller and Jenny Randles (BUFORA). Detailed 112 page illustrated booklet. A5. £4.25.

FIRE IN THE SKY - Buckinghamshire UFO Movie Film by Jenny Randles (BUFORA). Also known as 'the Peter Day case'. A5 booklet: £1.40.

UFO WORLD '89 by Jenny Randles. Booklet highlighting major cases, investigations and research from the past twelve months.